

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT WOP Observation Towers Along the Oder Canal

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1. Observation towers have been constructed on the western side of the Oder Canal, between Szczecin (Stettin) and Swinoujscie (Swinemuende) for the purpose of enabling the WOP (Military Border Guard) to observe the area. The towers are spaced at intervals of two to three kilometers, depending on visibility. In those areas where visibility is obscured by trees, bushes, etc., and there is a possibility that some person might approach the area unobserved, barbed wire has been put up, on which bells and tin cans have been hung to sound an alarm to WOP guards who patrol the area with police dogs. This is an added security precautionary measure to guard against spies or agents who, despite the existing difficulties, might somehow manage to enter Szczecin Bay, and who might attempt a landing by boat or attempt to enter the area on foot.
2. A similar alarm system has been set up along the Polish-German frontier in Szczecin Voivodship; it may well be that an alarm system such as the above has been established in other areas, but informant knows only of the system along the Oder River and in Szczecin Voivodship.

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